

MENINGITIS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

In Davidson County: fungal meningitis

- » Alerts sent to as many as 737 patients of Saint Thomas Outpatient Neurosurgery Center
- » Rare, not contagious, and not transmitted from person to person
- » Traced to Aspergillus mold, commonly found outdoors

So far, 11 patients have been infected, two of whom have died.



SYMPTOMS: FUNGAL MENINGITIS

Symptoms are similar to viral and bacterial forms of meningitis, but appear gradually. The symptoms include:

- » Dislike of bright lights
- » Change in mental status, confusion
- » Hallucinations
- » Personality changes

In Williamson County: viral meningitis

- » Four families have reported cases at Oak View Elementary in Franklin
- » School is on "disinfecting protocol"
- » Caused by a virus; some forms are contagious
- » More common and less severe than other forms of meningitis

In Rutherford County: bacterial meningitis

- » 18-year-old Jacob Nunley, a student at Middle Tennessee State University, died Sept. 10
- » Serious infection caused by bacteria; can be spread by direct, close contact

SYMPTOMS: VIRAL AND BACTERIAL FORMS OF MENINGITIS

Typically characterized by sudden fever, headache and stiff neck. Symptoms may also include:

- » Nausea
- » Vomiting
- » Sensitivity to light
- » Altered mental status